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Eastern District of California

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MADERA MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced that United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill sentenced ROBERT BOREL, 48, of Madera, Calif., today for his conviction of one count of receipt of child pornography to 15 years and eight months in prison to be followed by a lifetime term of supervised release during which his access to the Internet and children will be restricted. He will also forfeit a computer used to commit the crime.

This case was the result of a joint investigation by the Madera Police Department and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Fresno. BOREL was arrested on August 15, 2008, as part of Operation Valley Predator II, a month-long multi-agency effort in August 2008 that primarily targeted individuals who previously had been convicted for offenses involving the sexual exploitation of minors. During Operation Valley Predator II, more than 22 federal, state, and local agencies throughout the Central Valley made contact with approximately 377 individuals, executed approximately 20 search warrants, and arrested 61 persons on a variety of offenses ranging from child pornography crimes to failure to register as a sex offender. More than 17 new federal indictments resulted from the enforcement operation. This prosecution is part of the ongoing Department of Justice program Project Safe Childhood. For more about this initiative, visit www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/psc.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, BOREL admitted that from approximately August 2005 through June 2008 he used two separate computers to receive and possess more than 600 images of child pornography. Some of the images were of prepubescent children and some depicted violence and/or sadistic abuse. The defendant also admitted that he had engaged in a pattern of sexual abuse or exploitation of one or more minors.

BOREL has been detained as a flight risk and danger to the community since his initial appearance in federal court on August 15, 2008.

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